

VAST BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
August 22, 2005

DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES & STAFF PRESENT: Lisa Viau-Addison; Norm Roark-Bennington; Ken Gammell-Caledonia, Jim Hill-Chittenden; Dave Page -Essex; John Ross-Franklin; Bill Oakes-Grand Isle; Brian Wells-Lamoille; Jim Holbrook-Orange; Brian Cook-Orleans; Barry Bradley-Rutland; Scott Stone-Washington; ~~Reene Gibbs-Windham~~; Bruce Murray-Windsor; Ann Shangraw-President; Pat Poulin-Vice-President; David LaBelle-Treasurer; Bryant Watson-Executive Director, Alexis Nowalk-SSTP Trails Administrator; Bonnie Holbrook-Recording Secretary
GUESTS: Mitzi Oakes, Betty Roark, Star Poulin, Jim Holbrook, John Lynds, Conrad Stewart, Nikki Simpson, Bill & Ruth Benham, Sandy Woodbeck, Tjark Aldeborgh, Peg Bowen, Sue Trottier, Representative Bernie Sanders and staff member.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by President Ann Shangraw.

AGENDA: **Dave LaBelle moved and Bruce Murray seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.**

10a Registration Agents

SECRETARY'S REPORT: **Dave LaBelle moved and Brian Wells seconded to approve the minutes of July 25, 2005. Motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: **Norm Roark moved and Jim Hill seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.** Mitzi Oakes questioned the payment of four tickets for the golf tournaments.

CONSENT CALENDAR-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: **Dave LaBelle moved and Pat Poulin seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion carried.** This year's VAST Trails map is being distributed for corrections. Alexis Nowalk and Bryant Watson reviewed their written reports.

THE HONORABLE BERNIE SANDERS: Bernie Sanders thanked us for all of our work. Bernie Sanders stated that his office has been responsible for obtaining \$13 Million from the federal transportation funds. The money for this recreation trail represents about \$6 million out of the \$13 million. This is a very exciting project for the state of Vermont. This is a four-season trail and he asks that all groups using the trail to come to come together and work together for the sake of Vermont.

COUNTY DIRECTORS REPORTS: **Addison County** had their raffle. They didn't do as well as years pass although they are in the plus. Attendance was really down this year. Bill Leggett, Jr. was the winner. He used to run the store in Hinesburg and Conrad Stewart sold the winning ticket. There is a relocation that needs to be done between New Haven and Bristol. There are two trails in Bristol that are being rerouted because of landowner shutdown. **Rutland County** has been getting their permits. The state fair is this week. This will probably be the last year they are at the Rutland County Fair. The Fair Association wants half of what Rutland County Snowmobile Club takes in from selling the pull tickets. This is a huge fundraiser for the therapeutic pool they have been sponsoring for years. **Bennington County** has not had meetings this summer. We may lose a few trails in the Green Mountain National Forest. The club building for the Woodford Snow Busters has been begun being built. **Chittenden County** had a meeting a couple of weeks ago. **Orleans County** had a large landowner that shut down this land. The county has met with him and things are going better and it's possible the trail will be reopened. **Franklin County** has a couple of reroutes brewing. They had one question for Bryant Watson on repairing the rail trail. **Washington County** will start up their meetings next month. **Grand Isle County** had a summer picnic. Everything looks good and is hanging in there. **Orange County** will have their first meeting in September. Larry Trottier received a call about trail reroutes in Williamstown and Chelsea. Tri-Town Trail Travelers will be taking over the grooming contract for Chelsea. **Caledonia County** has been meeting all summer. They are working on the Annual Meeting. They have a couple of trail closures. They have received a lot of donated goodies. A lot of people are getting behind VAST in their area. **Lamoille County** had a meeting and cookout. The county officers are the same. There is a small problem in Elmore. **Windsor County** is quiet. They will have a meeting prior to the Annual Meeting.

UPDATE ON LVRT PROCESS: Bryant Watson updated the Board on the lease. The Deputy Director said that he has been told that he can not change anything on the Draft Lease. We will ultimately have to sit down with the Secretary of VTRANS to review the language in the lease and what clarifications. We need to address law enforcement in the lease. VAST has no authority to enforce the laws of Vermont so the law enforcement issue needs to be addressed. Bryant Watson needs to meet with Norm Arsenault to discuss some of these issues. Our trails liability insurance should cover the trail year around for members working on the trail.

2005 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT: Ken Gammell said that this is going to be fun, fun, fun!!! He reported they are all set to go. The night before the annual meeting there is an ice breaker party at Vinnie's Restaurant, Changing Seasons, on Route 5 in Lyndonville. They've got Rusty Dewees to have fun at the banquet. They want to bring some fun back into snowmobiling. The gym is air conditioned and so it shouldn't be stuffy and hot for the meeting. A lot of stuff for the annual meeting has been donated. The food for lunches will be inexpensive and put on by Caledonia County. The dinner meal should be a really good meal. The county is trying to do some special stuff for us. We will have three seminars in the morning. They have a chef coming from Massachusetts. Mike Dente works at the college and has been a big help with the computer system and operations and plans. Bryant Watson asked the Board to review the booklet for any changes before it goes to print on Wednesday. The Board asked to have the award winners, ie., jr snowmobiler, snowmobiler of the year, etc, added to the Annual Report.

ANTIQUE SNOWMOBILE TMA: Ann Shangraw had asked the Fiscal Committee to look at the fiscal aspects of issuing an antique snowmobile TMA. Unfortunately they have not had time to address that. Ann Shangraw and Bryant Watson have discussed the issue and if there is an antique snowmobile

club organized and they have a function, they can contact the VAST office and VAST will issue a one-day pass for antique sleds for that day. Bill Oakes has contacted several states to see how they deal with antique snowmobile registrations. None of the states that he had contacted had good responses.

REGISTRATION AGENTS: Ann Shangraw addressed issues with snowmobile registration agents. Sara Thompson had some problems getting the registrations sent in to Vermont DMV in time due the agents not sending the registrations into the VAST office in a timely manner. We have received a letter from DMV because of the issues with tardiness. The registration agents were sending in too large batches, batches with errors, and batches not received in a timely manner. Bryant Watson and Sara Thompson have created a procedure manual for the registrations. Registrations are supposed to be reported to us within 48 hours of sale. Then we are supposed to turn them around in 48 hours which is impossible if we receive such large batches. Some registration agents have been sending batches of 200 registrations and one check. That one check can not be cashed and the registrations can not be processed and turned into the state if there is even one error until the error is fixed. Dealers that sell new snowmobiles have to use decals from DMV. Scott Stone suggested that we inform the clubs that are tied to the agent, that they are ultimately responsible for problems with the registration. Bryant Watson decided that the following policy would be put in place:

- ❖ First error 1, Sara Thompson will contact the agent and get the problem fixed.
- ❖ Second error, they will receive a second warning. They will be told they will lose their ability to sell registrations if it happens again.
- ❖ Third warning they will not be allowed to sell registrations any more.

We have currently have 43 registration agents.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: The **Board Resources Committee** chair, Lisa Viau is working on a retreat for the Board. She will check on the Seyon Ranch for a weekend in November. **Landowner Appreciation & Incentives Committee** – Ann Shangraw asked Pat Poulin for the status of the coupon booklet. There are a few counties that don't want to participate. As chair, Pat Poulin is canceling the project due to not enough participation from counties. They are working on current use issues. The PR & Marketing Committee is supposed to be doing a new video. The audio is going to be Landowner Appreciation. The **ISC 2006** committee chair, Bonnie Holbrook, reported Tjark Aldeborgh has developed a series of ads for ISC 2006 that will be sent to all of the association newspapers in North America as well as all of the snowmobile magazines. A similar ad has been developed for the ACSA Calendar and will appear on the month of March as a reminder to all who buy the calendar, to register for ISC 2006. The same ad also appears on the back inside cover of the Annual Meeting Booklet. **Fiscal Committee** Chair, Dave LaBelle will be providing an overview of the budget at the Annual meeting. The **Personnel Committee** has completed the Executive Director's performance review with input from the Board. Bruce Murray reported on the **PR & Marketing Committee** and they will be showing the video that was shown at the Legislative Banquet in January at the Annual Meeting. They would like pictures from the membership to use for future videos. Star Poulin, committee chair, reported that the **Scholarships Committee** has completed awards for the annual meeting. VT Trophy and Engraving are putting together the trophies. The next meeting will be working on nomination forms to put on the website. October 15 & 16, 2005 is volunteer weekend. The **Safety & Responsible Riding Committee** chair, Mitzi Oakes reported on that they are having a meeting this week. She's been working on the mall for the safety week. **Trails Committee** chair, Dave LaBelle, reported they met last week. They are looking at the Bayley Bridges because they may be more feasible. The Manual from the International Snowmobile Administrators is done and the Trails committee will be looking at it.

OTHER: Ken Gammell suggested that the next time someone says that VAST doesn't do anything for them, we need to remind them that we bring in over half a billion dollars to the economy in the State of Vermont alone!

Orleans County will provide refreshments for the October Board meeting. We will not have a Board meeting in September due to the Annual Meeting. The next Director's Meeting is October 24, 2005 at 6:00 PM. **Lisa Viau moved and Pat Poulin seconded to adjourn at 8:54 PM. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Holbrook
Recording Secretary